

Remarks/Arguments

This application has been carefully considered in light of the Office Action mailed July 25, 2007. As a result, amendments are being submitted herewith to the Abstract, Specification and the Claims. These amendments should overcome the Examiner's objections and rejections.

Concerning the requirement for the correction to the drawings, no such correction is believed necessary as the language in the claims has been changed from "convex profile" has been replaced by language that defines the end portion of the cross-bar as being tubular. The original language referred to the curved profile of the upper and lower portions of the end portions of the cross-bars that are in fact convexly curved as is shown in the drawing figures. The term "tubular" is not limited to circular in profile and covers a structure having generally opposing flattened side walls, as is shown in the embodiments reflected in the drawings. In view of the amendment to the claim language, withdrawal of the drawing requirement is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12-14, 18, and 21-28 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being directly anticipated by the reference to Giardino, US Patent 1,082,317. Claims 6 and 11 have been rejected as being obvious over the reference to Giardino, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The Examiner has indicated that claims 9, 10, 15-17 and 20 are directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowed

if amended to include the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The reference to Giardino has been considered but is not believed to teach or anticipate the present invention as claimed. With the present invention, at least one end portion of one of the cross-bars is tubular and is surrounded by at least one hoop. In most embodiments, a projection from an adjacent strut seats within the end portion of the adjacent cross-bar. In one embodiment the at least one hoop extends beyond the terminal face of the end portion but surrounds and connects to the projection of the strut. The claims also define at least one locking member for securing the at least one hoop about and to the end portion of the cross-bar to thereby secure the projection within or adjacent to the end portion. The hoop is in substantially continuous contact and surrounds the end portion and thus offsets the forces applied to the end portion by the at least one locking member.

The reference does not include any projection from a strut that is secured within or relative to an open tubular end portion of the adjacent cross-bar as is taught by the present invention. Rather, the ends of the struts are folded about the end portions of the cross-bars and bolted there to at "f", see the discussion beginning at line 61 of column 2 of the specification. There is no structure that is similar to the at least one hoop that surrounds a projection of a strut and an end portion of a cross-bar that both reinforces the end portion of the cross-bar and secures the projection of the strut to the

cross-bar, as is set for in claim 1 of the present application. The part c² referenced by the Examiner is not a hoop that surrounds both a projection of the strut and the end portion of a cross-bar as is taught and claimed with respect to the present invention.

The blocks "g" of the reference are not projections for the struts nor locking members but are merely supplemental supports for the carrier rods "e". There is also no suggestion or teaching of providing a groove between the end portion of the cross-bar and a heald carrier rod to provide a clearance for a hoop for reinforcing an end portion of a cross-bar, as is claimed with the present invention. The open end of the top and bottom members "b" of the reference are not slots that allow passage of a hoop in the manner set forth in the present application.

The Examiner has suggested that the fastener "j" of the reference applies a tension to the end portion of the end straps "c", however, it is respectfully submitted that the fasteners "j" can only be tightened relative to the end portion of the cross-bar and not compress the ends of the straps relative to the end portion, as is the case with the hoops of the present invention.

With respect to amended claim 2, the reference does not have any structure for allowing a projection from a strut to be mounted with the end portion of a cross-bar.

With respect to claims 21-27, the reference does not show a projection on a strut and not one have bearing surfaces that would engage angled bearing surfaces of an end portion of a cross-bar. Claim 22 defines an offset control screw for a hoop whereas the reference discloses a hook member. Claim 23 defines a hoop that extends beyond the end portion of the cross-bar and which receives the projection of the strut therein. No such extending hoop or projection are disclosed in the reference.

As the reference does not define a hoop that is similar to that of the present invention, the reference is also not believed to teach or make obvious the limitations set forth in claim 24 nor claim 25 wherein a slot is provided in the end portion of the cross-bar. No such slot is shown in the reference. The member "b⁴" is not a part of the end portion of the cross-bar. Claim 26 defines the tubular section of the end portion of the invention to be substantially rectangular, and the end portion of the cross-bar of the reference is not open and of such a profile. Claim 27 sets for a filling material in combination with the elements of claim 1 which is also not believed to be taught in the cited reference.

Claim 28 is directed to a loom having at least one headle frame in accordance with Claims 1 and thus is believed distinguishable for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present invention define an invention that is not disclosed nor suggested by the reference to Giardino. Therefore, favourable consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this matter or the allowability of the claims over the art, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney or record at the telephone number shown below for purposes of scheduling a personal interview to further expedite the prosecution of the application and before taking any action that may be considered as final.

Respectfully Submitted;


Dowell & Dowell, P.C.

Ralph A. Dowell
Registration 26,868

Dated: October 25, 2007
2111 Eisenhower Avenue
Suite 406
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tele: 703-415-1555
e-mail: dowell@dowellpc.com
Customer No. 000293